

***Superstorm Sandy: Guidance for the Management of Displaced
Marine Vessels and Motor Vehicles Recovered from New Jersey's
Waters***



Prepared by the New Jersey NJDEP of Environmental Protection

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Superstorm Sandy: Guidance for the Management of Marine Vessels and Motor Vehicles Recovered from New Jersey's Waters

Introduction

This guidance document is to assist persons who are managing vessels and vehicles that are recovered from New Jersey's waters.

This guidance document does not address issues relating to ownership or title to vessels or vehicles that are recovered from waters of the State. Further information regarding vessel or vehicle titles can be found on the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC) website at <http://www.nj.gov/mvc/>.

Management of Recovered Vessels and Vehicles

Displaced and recovered vessels and vehicles, and related debris, which are located within New Jersey's waters, must be managed in a manner that will minimize adverse effects to human health and the environment.

Removal of vessels and vehicles that are floating, partial or fully submerged shall be performed in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment. If there are visible signs of leaking fluid(s) or other discharges from the vessel or vehicle, then the person responsible for securing and transporting the vessel or vehicle must contain the leakage, properly containerize the fluid(s) and/or waste material(s) and promptly report to NJDEP's hotline at 1-877-WARNDEP (1-877-927-6337).

All vessels and vehicles shall be transported to an approved facility for storage in a manner that adheres to all NJDEP, NJMVC and New Jersey NJDEP of Transportation (NJDOT) regulatory requirements.

Vessels and vehicles and related debris that are determined to be solid waste¹ shall be handled as such, and transported by a properly licensed hauler to a facility that is approved to manage and properly dispose of solid waste.

Storage areas for recovered vessels and vehicles must comply with all municipal, county and State requirements.

All vessels, vehicles and related debris must be stored on an impervious surface, and the storage area must be properly secured (i.e., at a minimum, fenced and locked) to control access to the site.

Fluids that leaked from vessels and vehicles (as well as any related waste materials) prior to disposal of the vessel or vehicle shall be properly containerized or stored, situated on an impervious surface and placed in an area that affords secondary containment to prevent the releases to the environment. The NJDEP recommends draining fuels, oils, and other fluids from vessels and vehicles, and storage of such fluids in a frac tank. All other fluids or hazardous materials shall be stored in a locked container located at the storage site.

Batteries shall be disconnected in all vessels and vehicles when brought to the storage area, and flares and other pyrotechnic warning devices shall be removed and properly stored in a locked container located at the storage site (separate from any flammable fluids/materials). The NJDEP recommends use of a checklist to ensure that all proper storage and maintenance procedures and related criteria are implemented and met during the period that the site is in operation.

All reasonable efforts should be taken to minimize any odor from migrating from vessel and vehicle storage sites.

Persons operating vessel or vehicle storage facilities are encouraged to contract with a duly licensed spill recovery contractor who can respond in a timely manner to any releases at the facility.

Fuels, other fluids, and waste materials that are solid wastes may be required to be managed as hazardous waste as per N.J.A.C 7:26G. Questions regarding hazardous waste classification can be addressed by calling the NJDEP's Bureau of Landfill and Hazardous Waste Permitting by telephone at (609) 984-6985.

Managing Access to the Vessel and Vehicle Aggregate Storage Sites and Collecting and Transporting Recovered Vessels

During the period that vessels and vehicles are stored at the storage sites, vessel/vehicle owners, insurance adjusters, various government personnel, and other individuals may request or require access to the storage sites. Special precautions will need to be taken by the contractor who is responsible for managing the site (site manager) to prevent injuries to individuals and damage occurring to the stored vessels and vehicles.

Site managers shall furnish protective gear (e.g., hard hats, safety vests) to persons visiting the storage sites at the time of site visits. The site managers shall prohibit visitors from climbing onto and/or entering vessels and vehicles stored at the site, unless expressly authorized in writing by the NJDEP. The site manager shall develop a site contingency plan that covers responses to injuries to persons or property and releases of hazardous substances to the environment. A copy of the contingency plan shall be maintained at the storage site at all times, and will be available and furnished to State and/or local officials upon request.

General questions regarding the management of displaced recovered vessels and vehicles may be directed to John Shevlin in the NJDEP's Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Program either by telephone at (609) 984-6985, or by email at John.Shevlin@dep.state.nj.us.

Footnotes

¹ N.J.A.C 7:26-1.6 Definition of Solid Waste: